

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4711

INFO USDOEHQ WASHDC PRIORITY

USDOEHQ GERMANTOWN PRIORITY

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USIAEA

DEPT PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: INFCIRC ON STATE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING FOR AND
CONTROL OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL (SSAC)

REF: STATE 296074

1. ON JANUARY 11 MISSION DISCUSSED WITH DDG ROMETSCH
AND WITH TOLCHENKOV THEIR VIEWS AND PLANS REGARDING
THE PROPOSED INFCIRC ON SSAC, IN LIGHT OF PARA 5 REF-
TEL. SUCH AN INFCIRC IS IN RESPONSE TO THE U.S. SUGGES-
TION MADE DURING THE SEPTEMBER BOARD DISCUSSION OF THE
SSIR ON THE NEED FOR THE SECRETARIAT TO PROVIDE
GUIDANCE ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SSAC IN ORDER TO HELP
CORRECT DEFICIENCIES IN CURRENT SSAC'S AS NOTED IN THE
SSIR.

2. SECRETARIAT (TOLCHENKOV) IS PLANNING TO FINISH BY
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ABOUT JANUARY 20 A REVISED DRAFT OF AN INFCIRC BASED
ON INFORMAL COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE ON THE PREVIOUS
SECRETARIAT DRAFT FROM FRG (GUPTA), CANADA (JENNEKENS),
USSR (RYZHOV) AND U.S. (BARTELS AND RICH). TOLCHENKOV
IS ALSO DRAWING ON THE OCTOBER 12, 1977 DRAFT PREPARED
BY BARTELS. TOLCHENKOV HOPES TO HAVE NEW DRAFT READY
IN TIME TO GIVE TO SAGSI MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION AND

WILL ALSO GIVE THE MISSION COPIES. THE CONTENTS OF THIS DRAFT WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE REPORTS OF THE TOKYO PANEL (PL-581, NOVEMBER 1973) AND THE BRNO ADVISORY GROUP (AG-26, JULY 1975). ACCORDING TO TOLCHENKOV THE NEW DRAFT WILL OMIT MUCH OF THE DESCRIPTIONS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS CONTAINED IN THESE TWO EARLIER REPORTS BUT WILL CONTAIN ALL OF THE MATERIAL ON SSAC FROM THESE REPORTS. IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE CLARIFICATION OF SOME OF THIS SSAC MATERIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON SOME ASPECTS OF SSAC SUCH AS FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL INVENTORY TAKING BY OPERATORS AND THE ACCURACY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTANCY TO BE ACHIEVED BY OPERATORS. THE DRAFT WILL ALSO INCLUDE TIMELINESS OF DETECTION GOALS OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS. ALL OF THE MATERIAL WOULD BE IN THE MAIN BODY OF THE DOCUMENT; THERE ARE NO APPENDICES.

3. BOTH ROMETSCH AND TOLCHENKOV POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES RELATING TO SSAC WHICH THEY BELIEVE SHOULD BE COVERED BY THE INFCIRC BUT WHICH THEY DO NOT BELIEVE CAN BE PROPERLY ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSED TIME FRAME FOR THIS INFCIRC (SEE PARA 4 BELOW). ROMETSCH BELIEVES THAT IT IS BETTER TO PRODUCE A FIRST SSAC INFCIRC IN 1978 AND THEN MAKE REVISIONS TO IT, AS WAS DONE WITH THE PHYSICAL PROTECTION INFCIRC (225), RATHER THAN TO DELAY ISSUANCE OF THE INFCIRC UNTIL THESE ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED. ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THESE UNRESOLVED ISSUES IS HOW THE IAEA IS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN SSAC IN DETERMINING IAEA INSPECTION EFFORT (INFCIRC 153, ARTICLE 81(B)). THIS IS THE EURATOM PROBLEM. THUS, MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN THE TOKYO REPORT ON COORDINATION BETWEEN THE SSAC AND IAEA, PARTICULARLY THAT DEALING WITH INSPECTION EFFORTS AND RELATED RATIOS, WILL BE OMITTED FROM THE INFCIRC. ROMETSCH BELIEVES IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE A SECTION WHICH IDENTIFIES SOME OF THESE UNRESOLVED PROBLEM AREAS AND WHICH NOTES THE NEED TO CONTINUE WORK ON THEIR SOLUTION.

4. THE SECRETARIAT IS PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS OF THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

(A) COMPLETION OF THE NEXT DRAFT INFCIRC BY LATE JANUARY.

(B) CONSULTATIONS WITH SEVERAL STATES, INDIVIDUALLY, DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. TOLCHENKOV IS PLANNING TO CONSULT WITH THE USSR (RYZHOV) DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 16 AND WITH THE JAPANESE IN TOKYO DURING THE

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6. HE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH THE U.S. PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO JAPAN, EITHER IN VIENNA OR ON FEBRUARY 2 OR 3 IN WASHINGTON. A FEW OTHER STATES, AND POSSIBLY EURATOM, WOULD ALSO BE CONSULTED.

(C) A SMALL CONSULTANTS MEETING INVOLVING A FEW SAGSI MEMBERS MIGHT BE HELD IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH IF CONSIDERED HELPFUL.

(D) COMPLETION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S FINAL DRAFT, BASED ON THESE CONSULTATIONS, BY EARLY OR MID-MARCH.

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(E) AN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING IN APRIL (NLT APRIL 18)
TO REVIEW AND ENDORSE THE DRAFT.

(F) CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED INFCIRC BY THE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS AT ITS JUNE 6-9 MEETING.

5. THE SSIR FOR 1977 IS PLANNED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE JUNE BOARD AND ROMETSCH BELIEVES THAT IT IS VERY DESIRABLE AT THAT TIME TO BE ABLE TO SHOW PROGRESS ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED IN THE 1976 SSIR, HENCE THE URGENCY IN COMPLETING THE SSAC INFCIRC IN TIME FOR THE JUNE BOARD. ROMETSCH ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE PRESTIGE OF A SAGSI ENDORSEMENT OF THE INFCIRC WOULD INCREASE THE PROSPECTS OF BOARD ACCEPTANCE. ROMETSCH WOULD EXPECT TO TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS PRIOR TO JUNE BOARD

MEETING OF THE ATTITUDES OF ITS MEMBERS ON THE INFCIRC AND, IF SEVERE PROBLEMS ARE FORESEEN, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD LOOK FOR SOME WAY TO ISSUE THE INFCIRC WITHOUT INVOLVING THE BOARD. THE PRESTIGE OF A SAGSI ENDORSEMENT COULD BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THIS EVENT.
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ROMETSCH, THEREFORE, CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE APRIL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING IN PARA 4(E) ABOVE SHOULD INVOLVE SAGSI.

6. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF GETTING SAGSI ENDORSEMENT IN A TIMELY MANNER WITHOUT UNDESIRABLE CHANGES BY SAGSI, ROMETSCH SUGGESTED A MODIFIED TYPE OF SAGSI MEETING THAT HE BELIEVES WOULD OVERCOME U.S. CONCERNS WHILE PRESERVING THE PRESTIGE VALUE OF A SAGSI ENDORSEMENT. HIS APPROACH WOULD BE TO CONVENE AN AD HOC ADVISORY GROUP IN APRIL TO WHICH VARIOUS STATES WOULD BE INVITED; TO INVITE ALSO ALL OF THE SAGSI MEMBERS; TO ASK THE SAGSI CHAIRMAN TO CHAIR THE GROUP; TO GIVE THIS MEETING A ONE-WEEK TERM OF EXISTENCE WITH THE SPECIFIC AND SOLE TASK OF REVIEWING THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT INFCIRC; AND TO ARRANGE FOR MORE ACTIVE SECRETARIAT INVOLVEMENT THAN IN A SAGSI MEETING. UNDER THIS APPROACH THE ADVISORY GROUP WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REVIEW AND REVISE AS NECESSARY THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT AND TO RECOMMEND ITS ISSUANCE AS AN INFCIRC. SAGSI MEMBERS, IF THEY WISHED, COULD MAKE A SIMILAR RECOMMENDATION OF THEIR OWN.

7. ROMETSCH WILL NEED TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS MATTER NO LATER THAN ABOUT JANUARY 18 IN ORDER TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH SAGSI BEFORE THE END OF ITS JANUARY 16-20 MEETING. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 17 ON ROMETSCH'S PROPOSED MEETING AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 6. MISSION ALSO NEEDS TO KNOW WHETHER U.S./IAEA DISCUSSIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT NOW IN PREPARATION ARE PREFERRED IN VIENNA OR IN WASHINGTON AND, IF THE LATTER, WHETHER THE DATES OF FEBRUARY 2-3 ARE ACCEPTABLE. STONE
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